

REMARKS

This is responsive to an Office Action mailed on October 25, 2006. In the Office Action, claims 23-36 were rejected. Applicant is hereby canceling claims 32-36. The present application currently includes claims 23-31.

The Office Action rejected claims 23-25 and 31 on the grounds of non-statutory double patenting over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,315,718. The Office Action also rejected claims 23 and 26-30 on the grounds of non-statutory double patenting over claims 1-12 of the U.S. Patent No. 6,368,271.

Applicant is hereby submitting a terminal disclaimer to disclaim a portion of the term of the patent to issue on the above-identified application to terminate along with the term of U.S. Patent No. 6,315,718 and 6,368,271. With the submission of the terminal disclaimer, Applicant submits that claims 23-31 are in allowable form.

While Applicants do not agree with the allegation that claims 32-36 are unpatentable, Applicant has canceled these claims to further along the prosecution of the present application. Applicant reserves the right to file a continued application to pursue these currently canceled apparatus claims.

With the submission of the terminal disclaimer and the canceling of claims 32-36, Applicant submits that the present application is in allowable form. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 23-31 are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: 

Peter J. Ims, Reg. No. 48,774
900 Second Avenue South, Suite 1400
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312